

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 were previously presented in the above-identified application. Claims 1 to 26 have been rejected, while claim 27 has been objected to with an indication as being allowable. Upon entry of this amendment, which cancels claims 13 to 25, amended claims 1 to 12 and 26 remain pending. As such, amended claims 1 to 12 now depend from allowable independent claim 26. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claims in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. No new matter has been added with this amendment. Also, The Applicants wish to preserve their rights to file the cancelled claims in a continuation application.

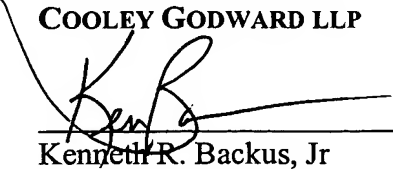
CONCLUSION

In sum, Independent claim 26 and its associated dependent claims 1-12 should now be in a condition for allowance, which is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner believes that any of the claims are not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned to resolve any outstanding issues.

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